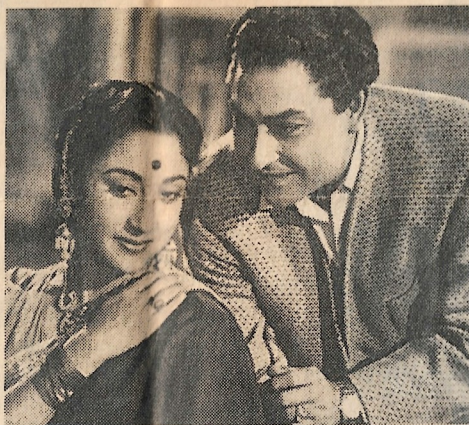


Remembering *dadamoni*

IT'S been a year already. Ashok Kumar, the grand old man of Indian cinema, passed away on December 10 last year, after an amazingly productive seven decades in the movies. His daughters have organised a tribute, *Remembering Dadamoni*, on December 8 at the Experimental Theatre, NCPA.

There is a filmed interview with him, his last — conducted over a year ago by his daughter Preeti Ganguly (who also runs the Ashok Kumar Academy), clips from his films, songs from his movies, an exhibition of rare photographs, memorabilia, his paintings (few know he was an accomplished artist), and tributes from colleagues who worked with him (Vijay Anand, Javed Akhtar, Ajay Goel), and from cineastes who cherish his movies.

“Over 65 years is a lot to encapsulate in a couple of hours,” says his older daughter, actress Bharati Jaffrey, who spent the last few months sourcing clips, material and photographs. “What we have tried to do is show his progress as an actor



To commemorate the first death anniversary of Indian cinema's doyen Ashok Kumar, his daughters have organised a fitting tribute, reports Deepa Gahlot

from the awkward *Achhut Kanya* to the accomplished performer of his later films, and let people see for themselves what he gave to the industry. We have found some really rare material, like his screen-test photographs which are really cute.” (The third daughter Roopa — married to actor Deven Verma — will sing a

bhajan to inaugurate the event).

Bharati says there were facets of her father even she wasn't aware of till she embarked on this journey to discover more about him. “It was well known that he was a self-taught homeopath,” but, Bharati says, “even I didn't know that a ward in a Ghatkopar hospital has been named after him, because he once found a cure for a little

girl whose leg was about to be amputated due to gangrene. There was single-mindedness about him, that made him strive for perfection in whatever he did, whether it was acting or painting or homeopathy.”

Bharati Jaffrey is not sure a tribute can be made an annual event, but wants to keep his memory alive in some way. “He was very keen on scripting,” she says, “so maybe we can set up a foundation named after him to give grants to aspiring script-writers.” So as to let fans who loved Ashok Kumar and his films share the memories, the exhibition will be on at the Experimental Theatre foyer on December 9 and 10 also, and is open to all.